Facilities Committee Report.

The Assembly next proceeded to discuss the report of the Facilities' Committee.

The DEWAN said that when this subject was brought up for discussion in October last, it was decided that it should be considered in the June Session. The report of the Committee appointed to go into all the details has now been received and circulated to the members. The subject may now be discussed.

MR. PARAMASIVIAH expressed his gratefulness to Government for having allowed them the opportunity of discussing the recommendations made by the Special Committee. He brought to the notice of Government that the members were put to very great inconvenience and that they felt this inconvenience more keenly this year as they have been deprived of the small conveniences they usually used to get during the previous years. Formerly, at least some furniture and cots were being supplied, but this year, even this is not given. Notice was circulated that no furniture could be provided and that no kitchen accommodation would be arranged for the members. He requested Government that as soon as possible before the Assembly meets next, some better conveniences should be provided.

Every one complained that the treatment accorded to them this year was very bad.

The CHIEF SECRETARY stated that the members were treated in the same way as in the past and that no difference was made this year in the arrangements.

MR. BELUR SRINIVASA IYENGAR brought to the notice of the Government that the Secretary, Representative Assembly, had issued notice that not even furniture would be supplied

MR. KARNICK KRISHNA MURTHY RAO pointed out that there was a good deal of difficulty about accommodation also. There was no furniture, no kitchen accommodation and this forced them to remain in hotels. Besides this, three or four members of different communities were grouped in one room. He was of opinion that independent rooms with furniture should be provided to each member and if necessary some small rent may be levied for the period of their occupation.

MR. BYANNA said that the people who fight for their claims as a matter of right are given the necessary conveniences and others not. He requested that arrangements should be made to see that all the members of this House are givin equal treatment.

MR. RUDRAPPA complained that the Special Duty Officer never goes to the buildings set apart for the members and does not care to look after their conveniences and comforts. He said that if the Special Duty Officer had requested the authorities of the Veerasaiva Hostel, they would have placed the building at the disposal of Government and this would have lessened the difficulties in the matter of providing good accommodation to the members.

The DEWAN said he would set things right in consultation with the Chief Secretary.

MR. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN said that as recommended by the Special Committee, 50 rooms with suitable kitchens should be constructed and properly furnished. If this was done, much of the inconvenience to the members complained of would be removed. If the Government think it necessary, rent may be recovered. Separate kitchens for different communities should be provided. In the rooms thus built, not more than two members should be accommodated. At this rate, 100 members could be provided with good accommodation. If this accommodation is not sufficient, the Nanjaraj Bahadur Chattram may also be fitted up for the members with adequate furniture. He was of opinion that the recommendations of the Committee in respect of this might be accepted *in toto* and brought into effect as early as possible.

MR. D. S. HANUMANTHA RAO was of opinion that one room should be set apart for each member; otherwise there would be much inconvenience caused.

The DEWN pointed out that before the reconstitution, every room was accommodating three to four members.

MR. VEMA REDDY was of opinion that it was not right on the part of the Government to charge for every little convenience that they provide to the members of the House who come from all parts of the State. They come to the Assembly at much sacrifice to their personal work with the object of doing some good to the country as a whole and as such, it is the duty of Government to give them some convenience free of charge. He pleaded that furnished rooms should be given to them free of charge for occupation during the busy season.

He did not agree with the recommendation of the Committee in regard to refreshments. He was strongly of opinion and pleaded very eloquently that refreshments should be supplied as heretofore. Formerly, there was State Dinner, but it has now been stopped. He made a personal appeal to the Dewan that during his term of office, he should not abolish the free supply of refreshments, but on the other hand, continue the existing policy and earn the gratitude of one and all of the members of this House.

Re the supply of publications to the members of this House, he said that the old practice of supplying them with copies of Government publications should be revived. It is not possible for each member to come to the Assembly every time he wants a book and the library to be opened in the Assembly Hall will not be of much use to the members except during the time of the meetings. If publications are supplied to the members, they will be able to go through them in their leisure hours and this would give them some idea of the administration of the State. In conclusion, he pointed out that the members should be treated with hospitality and confidence created in them.

MR. HOSKOPPPA KRIŚHNA RAÔ agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Vema Reddy in respect of the grant of free accommodation to the members. He said that rent should not be levied at least on sentimental grounds. He was of opinion that as the people do not come to Mysore on their private work, it is the duty of Government to provide them with furnished rooms free of rent. As regards refreshments, he was of opinion that not much money will be saved by the abolition of this item and as such it might continue as at present. He was for reviving the old practice of lava jama system. He said that if lava jama and good accommodation are provided, no daily allowance need be given to them. In regard to seating arrangements, he said that the present chairs are unsuitable for members working from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and that they should be provided with good comfortable chairs and small desks.

MR. RUDRAPPA supported MR. HOSKOPPA KRISHNA RAO'S views in respect of better seating arrangements.

MR. SANJIVIAH suggested that arrangements may be made for non-vegetarian catering also in the Modern Hotel at Mysore. He pointed out that while Government are

providing the retired officers with free quarters when they come to Mysore, it is not right on their part to levy rent from the members who come on duty.

MR. HUTCHAVEEREGOWDA said that formerly, the Assembly members were provided with cushions for seating in the Assembly and appealed to the Dewan that during his term of office, cushion chairs should be ordered to be provided for the members.

MR. KARNICK KRISHNA MURTHY RAO said that the bungalow of Justice Ramachandra Iyer, which has been recently taken by Government for rent may be used for accommodating the Legislative Council members when they go to Bangalore. In former days, Government used to give the members of this House a house rent of Rs. 5 to enable them to secure suitable accommodation. But this parctice has now been cancelled. If Government undertake to build rooms for the members, they should at least construct a block of 100 rooms. Otherwise, it will not improve matters very much. There was a proposal during Sir M. Visvesvaraya's time that the Sowar lines would be given to us, but the members did not like the idea. Good accommodation and enough furniture are absolutely necessary. Regarding the levy of rent, it was a matter of opinion. Personally, he was willing to pay rent. Government publications should be supplied to all the members and early action should be taken in this direction. He had nothing to say in the matter of refreshments, but left it to the good sense of the House.

In regard to the question of T. A., he said at present it is being used as a source of income and as such, the system should be put an end to. He was of opinion that every member should be given railway passes (one second class pass for himself and one third class pass for his servant) and not train fare, and the usual rate of daily allowance. If the members are given second class fares, there is just the possibility of their travelling in the third class and save some money. There is more dignity in granting them passes. The Railway income also will not suffer.

It was pointed out that Sir M. Visvesvaraya had promised that a Hall would be constructed, but till now this promise has not been given effect to. The present building is not suitable as people speaking from corners cannot be heard. Nor are the Government Members heard by the Assembly members sitting away from them. As soon

as possible, arrangements may be made to construct a new hall for the Representative Assembly.

MR. ANANTHAIYA said that not more than Rs. 4,000 would be required for furnishing 50 rooms and this is an expenditure well worth incurring. He agreed with Mr. Vema Reddy that refreshments should be supplied to them free. About Government publications, he was of opinion that if each member could not be supplied with the copies, arrangements should be made to see that the members got these publications at least by circulation.

There is now some difference in the rate of travelling allowance and the daily allowance between the members of this House and of the Legislative Council. He was of opinion that there should be no such difference and that both these bodies should be treated alike.

He suggested that a retiring room for the members—which is an absolute necessity—and a reading room should be provided in the Assembly Hall as soon as possible.

MR. NABI KHAN pointed out that there should be only one uniform rate of batta to the members of both the Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly.

MR. PIR SAB agreed with the above speaker and prayed that all the members of this House should be treated alike as in the past. He was of opinion that the arrangement of supplying refreshments should continue.

MR. USMON KHAN said that the members were originally getting Rs. 30 and they were making their own arrangements for accommodation. The members now get travelling allowance and daily allowance and they should therefore make their own arrangements as regards accommodation, paying according to the prescribed rules. He had no objection to the construction of new quarters for the members, but insisted that the rules applying to the occupation of Musafirkhanas, etc., should be brought into force in this case also.

He was of opinion that the members of the Legislative Council do the same kind of work as the members of this House and as such there was no justification for giving different rates of daily allowance and travelling allowance to them. Members of both the houses should be treated alike in this respect. He pointed out that in Madras, every member who goes to Ooty makes his own arrangement and gets suitable allowances. But here especially after the introduction of the reforms, money is spent lavishly and if all the recommendations of the

Special Committee are to be sanctioned, much more money has to be spent without knowing what the ultimate benefit will be. He was of opinion that if tiffin is provided for the members, there should be some reduction in the scale of daily allowance.

MR. RAMASWAMI said that the Mysore Representative Assembly which was formed some 40 years ago was the first of its kind in India and as a result of this institution, the political education among the masses had spread in Mysore. Recently, this institution was reconstituted and better status was given as a result thereof. It is necessary therefore that arrangements should be made to accommodate all the members in one place, as this will enable them to further improve the status of the institution by frequent discussions, etc. One hall for the Assembly, suitable chairs and tables for the members, one reading room with all the up-to-date publications and newspapers, must be provided as early as possible.

MR. BALIJA was of opinion that rent should not be levied from the members of this House. He said that free refreshments should not be supplied on the ground that stale things which upset their health are supplied. He was not in favour of reviving the old *lavajama* system. Under that system, *lavajama* was being granted on the day of the member's arrival and there was no check by which to know whether the member stayed till the end of the session. But under the present daily allowance system, unless the member attends the session, he does not get his daily allowance. Statistics show that the attendance of members has very much improved on account of the introduction of the daily allowance system.

MR. GOPALASWAMI suggested that the two Public Libraries at Bangalore and Mysore should in the first instance be supplied with all the Government publications, administration reports, press table orders, etc., and this system should be introduced in all the other six districts in due course. He said that no useful purpose could be served in comparing the conditions in our State with those of the British Indian Provinces where people have to deal with the agents of the Government. The conditions here are altogether different and we should be treated here as guests of His Highness. He was of opinion that none of the existing facilities should be abolished. He also submitted that a new hall was absolutely necessary for the Representative Assembly.

MR. C. SRINIVASA RAO was of opinion that the present catering arrangements should be abolished, that some rent may be levied for accommodation provided for the members and that the existing rates of daily batta, *viz.*, Rs. 5 was quite sufficient.

MR. C. B. SRINIVASA RAO wanted to know who elected the members of the Special Committee, what was the personnel of it and when the Committee was appointed.

He pointed out that the Committee had made recommendations without consulting this body and there was no reason to have two different kinds of rates of travelling allowance.

He said that the members were at present receiving only abstracts of orders which served no useful purpose and it was necessary that they should be supplied with all the publications in future.

Re seating arrangements, he suggested that members should be supplied with tables to make their own notes and they should be supplied with better chairs. He pointed out that the existing hall was most unsuitable for purposes of the meetings of the Assembly and a better building should be provided as early as possible.

He agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Balija on the question of the system of *lavajama.*

The DEWAN in winding up the discussion said that the question had been thoroughly discussed and that Government would give their best consideration before passing final orders. He also assured the members that he would enquire into the inconveniences complained of and see that matters are set right.

In regard to the new hall to the Assembly, the Dewan said that an estimate for Rs. 4 lakhs had been prepared for a new hall which could be used both for the University Senate and Representative Assembly meetings and that a site on the University grounds had been selected and the design approved. Owing to the straitened financial circumstances, the Government could not undertake the construction, but they would see if anything could be done to expedite the matter.